

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06530 311551Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
DODE-00 /077 W
-----024696 311946Z /64

R 311449Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6994
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6530

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR,NATO, GR
SUBJ: ALLIANCE: DEFENSE MINISTER REITERATES GREEK POSITION
ON RETURN TO NATO

1. RESPONDING TO CONJECTURE IN THE ATHENS PRESS CONCERNING
THE IMPACT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE TURKISH ARMS
EMBARGO ON GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH NATO, DEFENSE MINISTER
AVEROFF TOLD REPORTERS ON JULY 29 THAT "THERE HAS BEEN NO
CHANGE IN GREECE'S POSITION TOWARD NATO. OUR INTENTION IS
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO.
THE BASIC POINTS HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED REPEATEDLY."

2. AVEROFF WAS RESPONDING SPECIFICALLY TO A QUESTION
CONCERNING AN ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM BRUSSELS
WHICH SAID THAT GREECE IS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD REINTEGRATION
INTO NATO'S MILITARY WING. THE AP DISPATCH RECEIVED
HEAVY COVERAGE FROM THE ATHENS PRESS ON JULY 29. THE
GENERAL TENOR OF LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON THE AP STORY WAS
THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON GREECE'S STATUS IN NATO WOULD
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06530 311551Z

BEGIN AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER, THAT EXCEPT FOR TURKEY, THE
OTHER NATO MEMBERS ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS
GREECE'S POSITION, AND THAT THE ISSUE WOULD BE SETTLED
FAVORABLY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
MILLS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS06530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780313-0679
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978071/aaaaaaod.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 882ec06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1842661
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLIANCE: DEFENSE MINISTER REITERATES GREEK POSITION ON RETURN TO NATO
TAGS: PEPR, GR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/882ec06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014